



Doing Good Right Here: Brooklyn Grants Report 2010

OVERVIEW:

As the borough's largest philanthropic institution, and with the help and support of generous donors, Brooklyn Community Foundation makes grants from five interconnected Field of Interest funds to the best and most effective nonprofits working in: Education and Youth Achievement, the Arts, Human Services, Community Development and the Environment. In 2010, Brooklyn Community Foundation awarded more than **\$5.1 million** in grants—ranging from \$500 micro-grants to \$750,000 collaborations—to over 200 nonprofits serving the borough.

This report on our first full year of grantmaking as Brooklyn's first community foundation reveals both the ongoing resource needs of our communities and the strong spirit and commitment of Brooklynites to fight for a better Brooklyn. While the "Brooklyn" brand has become inked, with celebrities naming their offspring after the borough and new residents, businesses and tourists flocking to our shores, we must keep in mind that troubling issues continue to affect our neighbors. Today, one quarter of Brooklyn's seniors live in poverty; more than 64 percent of emergency food providers don't have enough food to meet community needs; more than 50,000 young people in Brooklyn have neither a diploma nor a job; and preserving affordable housing has become increasingly difficult.

Brooklyn's economic transition from blue collar business to technology and creative commerce has left many people behind. And, until now, local philanthropy has been focused elsewhere. That's why we launched Brooklyn's first community foundation in 2009. We wanted to create a new civic institution focused on giving and service solely in Brooklyn. The Brooklyn Community Foundation is devoted to continually strengthening our communities and to making a difference in the lives of people in our borough. **We hope you will join us in our efforts to Do Good Right Here.**

GRANTMAKING PRINCIPLES

Brooklyn Community Foundation applies the following principles to its grantmaking decisions:

- **Access to opportunity:** funding projects, programs and initiatives that provide opportunities for educational, economic, social and/or personal growth. In the communities where we work, a lack of access to opportunity is a significant barrier to neighborhood, individual or family advancement and most organizations we fund are in one way or another working to create opportunities and facilitating access to those opportunities.
- **Facts and research:** we seek to target problems and need demonstrated by facts and research. And while we weigh the grantmaking to projects, programs and initiatives with demonstrated results, we are careful to make room for new ideas and approaches that bring innovative thinking to craft approaches to difficult social problems.
- **Organizational strength and potential:** we favor organizations with clearly articulated missions, goals and objectives, and well-defined models for achieving those ends; these are indicators of organizational strength and capacity. We also look for other evidence of this strength in the competency of leadership and staff, their vision for change and the potential for the growth, expansion or dissemination of successful programs and models.
- **Partnership and collaboration:** key to the Foundation's ability to facilitate transformational change in Brooklyn communities is funding organizations, projects and programs that are, at least in part, partnership-oriented and collaborative in nature. A group's willingness to work with the Foundation to further leverage our grants is an essential element of our evaluation process.

GRANTMAKING THEMES

The Foundation organizes its grantmaking around themes that support the nonprofit sector's capabilities, provide services to people in need and build effective program models that lead to transformative change in communities. We also convene and coach our grantee partners, helping organizations and their leaders achieve important results for Brooklyn's people and neighborhoods.



FIELD OF INTEREST FUNDS

Over the past decade, the Foundation has had the opportunity to work with visionary leaders throughout the borough to help form partnerships and programs to help build and strengthen our communities. Each of the Foundation's Field of Interest funds has clearly articulated objectives and reflects the borough's current and changing needs, and we work to create customized grantmaking opportunities so that the people of Brooklyn receive the services they need.

- **Education and Youth Achievement** supports a variety of efforts, with a focus on out of school time, aimed at improving education attainment outcomes for young people, particularly those living in high poverty neighborhoods. Education is a top funding priority for the Foundation, receiving far more requests for funding than we can support.
- **Arts for All** strives to facilitate regular arts attendance or creation from all Brooklynites by focusing on ongoing arts participation in diverse community settings: museums, theaters, social service agencies, public schools, libraries, senior centers, and community arts/music schools with multi-year, sequential arts instruction.
- **Community Development** focuses on development and preservation of affordable housing through community-based advocacy and organizations, targeted workforce and economic development programs.
- **Caring Neighbors** supports programs united in their ability to keep vulnerable Brooklynites healthy, secure, and active members of their communities, particularly seniors. It also provides short and long-term solutions to low income individuals with immediate food and shelter needs.
- **Green Communities** promotes a green lifestyle and teaches the next generation of environmental stewards through community gardens and science curricula; it also supports the preservation of parks and playgrounds that bring neighbors together.



To Give to a Field of Interest Fund, Visit
[**www.BrooklynCommunityFoundation.org/Donate**](http://www.BrooklynCommunityFoundation.org/Donate)



EDUCATION AND YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT FUND: \$1,237,000 to 76

organizations, with a focus on academic and afterschool programming, positive youth development for girls and mentoring programs to help young people graduate from high school and ensure that they are college bound and/or job ready. *Grants include:*

Red Hook Initiative (RHI)

works to confront inter-generational poverty by providing people who live in the area with training and employment so they can create their own programs and provide supportive services to their neighbors, families and friends. The Foundation has been supporting RHI since 2003, most recently with a \$30,000 grant to help build capacity of current staff and provide ongoing technical assistance.

The Sadie Nash Leadership Project

supports the intellectual and emotional development of young women through its intensive summer program, school year courses that focus on practical leadership skills, service-learning internships, independent and collective leadership projects and opportunities for organizational stewardship. The Foundation's most recent \$25,000 grant supports an intensive 2-year program for 125 low-income young women of Brooklyn.



Girls for Gender Equity (GGE)

is committed to the physical, psychological, social and economic development of girls and women. Through education, community organizing and physical fitness, GGE encourages communities to remove barriers and create opportunities for girls and women to live self-determining lives. The Foundation's \$25,000 grant toward GGE's Sisters in Strength program enables high school youth to act as mentors, tutors, group facilitators and resources for middle schoolers at Urban Leaders Academy.

500,000 of Brooklyn's young people are out of school or out of work.

Reel Works Teen Filmmaking

is the only NYC youth media program combining one-on-one mentoring by professional filmmakers with a project-based learning model of filmmaking. A \$20,000 grant helps young people gain self-esteem, master technology and transform from passive consumers to active creators of media. Reel Works has earned five Student Emmys and the President's 2007 Coming Up Taller Award, the nation's top honor for after school arts and humanities programs.



A \$10,000 grant is helping support the **Brooklyn Friends School's** summer **Horizon Program** to provide neighboring public school students at PS 307, 287, 67 and 8 with reading, math, computer skills, sports, arts, and other cultural classes and activities.



CARING NEIGHBORS FUND: \$511,500 to 32 organizations, to provide support to our vulnerable neighbors in need; to ensure that disabled or older Brooklynites, or any individual or family in crisis receives the community supports they need to remain in place, be safe, well-cared for, and economically secure. *Grants include:*

Brooklyn Community Housing and Services provides safe, clean supportive housing for nearly 800 women, children and men who had been homeless; individuals have the opportunity to live productively and independently, with dignity. Our \$25,000 grant supports a Model SRO Project—a groundbreaking, nationally recognized initiative to prevent homelessness for two of the most at-risk populations in Brooklyn: ex-offenders and formerly homeless seniors.

Heights and Hills is one of Brooklyn's largest providers of case management for older adults and their caregivers. Annually serving more than 2,000 adults age 60 and over in 17 different neighborhoods, Heights and Hills helps these Brooklynites age in place—in their own homes and neighborhoods. A grant of \$25,000 enabled this important group to enhance its fundraising and technology to increase the capacity of its staff and board.

The Foundation's \$25,000 challenge grant to **Homecrest Community Services**, a senior center in Bensonhurst primarily serving the area's growing population of Chinese elders helped raise new and increased funds from local Chinese business and professional associations. Homecrest works to improve the lives of Asian-American senior citizens, immigrants, and other disadvantaged persons living in Southern Brooklyn by providing essential social services to help them achieve greater self-sufficiency and health.



More than 50% of Brooklyn seniors live below the poverty line.



A \$10,000 grant to the **Jewish Community Council of Canarsie (JCCC)** Food Pantry Enrichment Program is helping JCCC's current emergency food services enhance the nutritional value of its food packages, increase the hours of the food pantry, and expand its volunteer recruitment efforts.

A \$20,000 grant to the **New York City Coalition Against Hunger** is helping conduct a hunger survey of Brooklyn-based emergency food providers and provides ongoing technical assistance through national service corps members.

A \$10,000 grant to **Bedford Stuyvesant Campaign Against Hunger**, one of Brooklyn's largest and most innovative food pantries, helps provide food, benefits access, referrals, as well as inter-generational programming at three on-site garden plots that provide clients with fresh produce.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND: \$660,000 to 29 organizations to preserve affordable housing, create new housing that fits in with the character of the community, and to encourage the growth of the local economy by working with local groups to spur the creation of new jobs and new employment opportunities. *Grants include:*

The Foundation's \$25,000 grant to **Common Ground** is helping build comprehensive, innovative programs to help end homelessness for Brownsville's "hardest to serve"—those who have been homeless the longest, have disabling conditions and who are least likely to access housing resources.

The **HOPE Program** blends exceptional vocational, educational, and social services with a commitment to a person's growth. A \$25,000 grant helps support the HOPEworks Job readiness training program, which includes comprehensive social services. The program serves low-income New Yorkers of all ages, many of whom are ex-offenders.

To build and connect tomorrow's leaders, a \$20,000 grant to the **Jewish Community Relations Council of NY** is helping support the *We Are All Brooklyn Fellowship*, a selective professional development program which identifies, trains and connects Brooklyn's emerging community and faith-based leaders representing Brooklyn's racial, ethnic and geographic diversity.

A \$25,000 grant to **Housing + Solutions** supports permanent and transitional housing for formerly homeless women—many of whom were once incarcerated or have histories of substance abuse and mental illness—and their families. Its eight group "Sunflower Houses" in Central Brooklyn include an Alternative to Sentencing family residence. Each home provides its residents with a full complement of ongoing support services to facilitate their physical, social, and economic health and independence.



A \$25,000 grant to **East Williamsburg Valley Industrial Development Corporation** supports Plan Ahead Brooklyn, an initiative to help industrial businesses develop plans for long-term growth and help increase the number of working class jobs in Williamsburg and Sunset Park, two rapidly evolving neighborhoods.

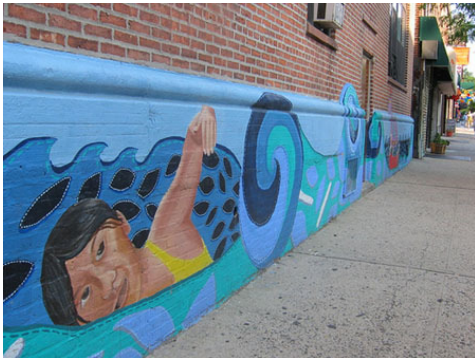
The Foundation's \$20,000 grant to **Bushwick Housing Independence Project (BHIP)** provides hands-on support through tenant organizing and legal counsel in housing court to families who are victims of landlord harassment and coercion; it also ensures that people can access culturally-appropriate legal counsel before, during and after their court appearance.

A \$35,000 grant to **Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation** supports the continued development of affordable housing in the Cypress Hills area of Brooklyn.

Brooklyn has unacceptably high unemployment rates, the most public housing units and among the highest foreclosure rates in the city.



ARTS FOR ALL FUND: \$588,775 to 51 organizations. The Foundation believes in the power of the arts to unite, educate, enlighten, and entertain all people from all cultures, all neighborhoods and all economic backgrounds; *Grants include:*



The Foundation's \$15,000 grant to **Groundswell Community Mural Project** is helping young people collaborate with established artists and community organizations to transform public spaces with high-quality sculptures, murals, and mosaics that boldly express the often untold stories of their communities.

A \$25,000 grant to **Bedford-Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation**, the nation's first community development corporation, is helping support its Center for Arts and Culture, an umbrella of several arts entities including the Youth Arts Academy, Skylight Gallery and Noel Pointer Foundation to expand arts programs and audiences in Central Brooklyn.

The Foundation received the 2010 Mayor's Award for Arts and Culture in recognition of its outstanding contributions to NYC's cultural life. Since 1998, we have provided over \$19 million to more than 500 local nonprofit arts organizations and institutions of all sizes serving the borough.

The Foundation's grant of \$10,000 provides scholarship support to **Brooklyn Arts Exchange**, (BAX) a community based performing arts center dedicated to developing artists of all ages, so it can continue to provide financial assistance to over one-quarter of the 5,000 youth enrolled in its performing arts classes. Many of these students are on professional tracks and work closely with BAX's artists in residence.

A \$3,500 grant to **K.S. J.A.M.M. Dance Troupe**, a community based dance school in Crown Heights, engages young dancers age 4-17 - and their parents - through intensive instruction in Ballet, Modern, Jazz, Tap, African and Hip-Hop dance in an affordable neighborhood setting.



A \$15,000 grant to **St. Nicks Alliance**, a multipronged organization that provides housing, workforce, healthcare, and economic development programming in North Brooklyn, supports Arts@Renaissance, a community gallery space that links Williamsburg and Greenpoint's new waves of artists with the Alliance's long-time constituents. This exciting space in the lower level of an old hospital building welcomes all residents to create and consume art together.

Five Myles is a Crown Heights based gallery that combines a cutting edge exhibition program that highlights local emerging artists with an "open door" policy that gives local residents an opportunity to curate locally generated exhibitions or program performances by local dancers, musicians or filmmakers. A \$5,000 grant supports the technical assistance Five Myles give to its community partners to mount their programs.



GREEN COMMUNITIES FUND: \$375,500 to 24 organizations. The Foundation believes in investing in community-wide strategies to make neighborhoods more attractive, more energy efficient, and more engaged in protecting and enhancing their environment. *Grants include:*

Grants to **Brooklyn Botanic Garden** for the Greenest Block in Brooklyn contest, (\$5,000), **Prospect Park Alliance** for environmental stewardship programs (\$15,000), the **New York City Audubon Society** (\$10,000) to raise awareness of Brooklyn's natural areas such as the Jamaica Bay Initiative and **City Parks Foundation** (\$10,000) to build community involvement in parks in Gravesend, all provide opportunities for children, youth and adults to learn how to preserve, create and maintain open spaces

50% of the City's community gardens are in Brooklyn, 70% percent of which are in low-income neighborhoods.



To increase access to fresh, affordable, healthy food options, the Foundation continues to support **Just Food** with a \$20,000 grant to create new Community Supported Agriculture Programs (CSAs), farmers markets and educational programs, the **New York Restoration Project** with a \$10,000 grant to support small construction projects and community workshops and **Added Value** with a \$35,000 grant to expand its Youth Empowerment Program and pilot new projects in its Farm Based Learning Program in Red Hook.

The Foundation's \$15,000 grant to **Green City Force** is helping this exciting pilot expand its services to disconnected Brooklyn youth. Through extensive classroom training and internships with nonprofit partners, young people are receiving hands-on training for—and placement in—well-paying careers in the growing green job sector. At the same time, they are becoming civically engaged environmental stewards.

A \$30,000 grant to **The Brooklyn Greenway Initiative** is helping the continued development of this 14-mile route connecting waterfront communities to one another, and Brooklynites to the waterfront.

The first phase of a \$750,000 grant over the next three years to the Foundation's innovative **Brooklyn Greens Initiative**, which links four of the borough's strongest organizations: **Pratt Center for Community Development**, **Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation**, **Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation** and **El Puente**, is currently underway. See *special initiatives for more details.*

Photos courtesy of Brooklyn Community Foundation Grantee Partners web sites

FOCUS ON MICRO-GRANTS

Since its inception, Brooklyn Community Foundation has been committed to helping identify and cultivate the borough's most effective organizations—of all sizes—working to improve the quality of life in Brooklyn. To that end, our Micro-Grants program provides \$500 grants to volunteer-run Brooklyn organizations with organizational budgets smaller than \$50,000. These grants provide much-needed funding for grassroots projects and many have seeded some of today's incredible and effective local nonprofits like Added Value, NY Writers Coalition, and Girls for Gender Equity. In 2010, the Foundation awarded \$9,500 in Micro-Grants to 18 groups.

This spring, the Foundation launched two new exciting programs through our Micro-Grants Program and our Green Communities Fund: **Brooklyn Spring Match** and the **Brooklyn Community Garden Fund**. The Brooklyn Spring Match partners with ioby.org (in our back yard), the only online crowd-funding platform created specifically to support and measure the collective impact of small environmental actions in NYC. The match helped community gardens, parks, beaches and school-based gardens come to life and build a network of citizen donors in Brooklyn. The Brooklyn Community Garden Fund, a partnership with Green Guerillas, New York City's pioneering community garden organization, is enabling GreenThumb community gardeners to make vital garden improvements and undertake important community-building activities.

To learn more about the Foundation, visit www.BrooklynCommunityFoundation.org

SPECIAL INITIATIVES

The Foundation launched three special initiatives that forge collaborations among organizations and entities to address specific issues or needs in our communities.

Amount awarded: \$1,755,000

New York City Haitian Community Hope & Healing Fund is a locally-focused response to the devastating earthquake in Haiti in January 2010. The Foundation raised nearly \$500,000 to support local organizations working with the Haitian community in Brooklyn, the third largest Haitian population outside of Haiti, and has worked with a collaborative of 14 organizations to provide a range of legal, case work, workforce, and other services, primarily centered in and around Flatbush and East Flatbush. *A report on findings from the first year is available at www.BrooklynCommunityFoundation.org.*

Brooklyn Greens will use customized approaches to help make three key Brooklyn communities greener by engaging young people, adults and community institutions in taking action to improve their local environment by employing energy efficiencies, training and placing under- and unemployed young people in jobs weatherizing homes, community facilities and businesses, and by applying conservation and environmental principles to affordable housing developments. A formal announcement will be made later this year.

The Central Brooklyn STEM Initiative builds on a program started and funded by the Foundation in 2007 that seeks to significantly expand *NYU-Polytechnic Institute's* work in the area of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education in Central Brooklyn public schools. In February, the Foundation announced its \$500,000 grant commitment to help the initiative increase the number of middle and high schools served by this program from 12 to 36, engaging hundreds more young people in achieving academic excellence.